



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information in Blue Text

Event Name	21-0018 - Tropical Storm Nicholas
Date	September 16, 2021
Time	0900
Operational Period	September 15, 2021 – September 16, 2021
Report Number	5

Regions Affected	
DPS Regions Affected	2 & 3
DDCs Active	15, 16, 20

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On September 15, Governor Abbott, and Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Chief Nim Kidd called county judges to determine what further support is needed following Hurricane Nicholas. While there were reports of wind and water damage in Calhoun and Matagorda Counties, no County Judge reported any major damage or unmet needs from the state.

Governor Abbott also announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has received federal approval to provide replacement benefits for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients for food lost or destroyed due to Hurricane Nicholas.

On September 14, Governor Greg Abbott updated the action that Texas is taking to help communities respond to Hurricane Nicholas. To accelerate the response, the Governor temporarily waived the limit on commercial drivers' hours of service and the oversize and overweight permitting requirements.

Governor Abbott also added Liberty and Wharton counties to the disaster declaration issued September 13.

On September 13, The Governor issued a state disaster declaration in response to Tropical Storm Nicholas for 17 counties. Counties included in the state disaster declaration are Aransas, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Refugio, San Patricio, and Victoria. The State will add additional counties as needs are identified.

On September 12, in response to severe weather threats along the Texas Gulf Coast due to Tropical Storm Nicholas, Governor Abbott ordered the Texas State Operations Center (SOC) to increase its readiness to Level II (Escalated Response) beginning September 13, at 9:00 a.m. central. The SOC will operate at Level II to coordinate the state's response in support of local officials. Tropical Storm Nicholas is forecast to begin impacting the Texas coast tomorrow.

Tropical Storm Nicholas is expected to bring significant rainfall and flooding to the entire Gulf Coast as it moves slowly across the state. The Governor urges Texans to prepare now, pay close attention to their local forecasts, and heed all warnings of local officials.

On September 11, the Governor activated resources to assist local communities impacted by this storm. The following resources have been activated:

- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (Texas A&M Task Force One): Swift Water Rescue Boat squads and overhead packages.
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department: Game Warden Boat Teams.
- Texas Military Department: Ground Transportation Platoons with High Profile Vehicles and helicopters with hoist capability.
- Texas Department of State Health Services: Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) Severe Weather Packages.
- Texas Department of Public Safety: Texas Highway Patrol (ESF 13) Search and Rescue Aircraft and The Tactical Marine Unit.
- Texas A&M Forest Service: Saw Crews and Incident Management Teams.
- Texas Department of Transportation: Monitoring Road Conditions and Prepositioned Water-Filled Barriers.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Health and Human Services
- Public Utility Commission: Power Outage Monitoring and Coordination with Utility Providers.
- Texas Division of Emergency Management State Shelter and Mass Care

Texans are urged to follow these flood preparedness and safety tips during severe weather events:

- Know the types of flood risk in your area. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center for information here: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>
- Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Build an emergency supply kit. For more information on how to build a kit, visit: <https://www.ready.gov/kit>
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.
- Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.

- Be extremely cautious of any water on roads or in creeks, streams, storm drains, or other areas – never attempt to cross flowing streams or drive across flooded roadways and always observe road barricades placed for your protection. Remember, Turn Around Don't Drown.

For more flood safety tips, visit gov.texas.gov/hurricane.

Texans can also visit www.TexasFlood.org for resources and tips on how to stay safe during flood events.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16 Houston, 16 Texas City, 16 Conroe, and DDC Pierce)

DDC 14 – Lufkin (Includes: Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler Counties)

Newton County: Newton County Submitted a Disaster Declaration.

DDC 15 – Beaumont (Includes: Hardin, Jefferson, Jasper and Orange Counties)

Jasper County: Jasper County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

Jefferson County: Jefferson County and the City of Port Arthur have submitted Disaster Declarations.

Orange County: Orange County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

DDC 16A - Houston (Includes: Chambers and Harris Counties)

Chambers County: Chambers County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

Harris County: Jersey Village, [Seabrook](#), [Spring Valley](#), and West University Place submitted Disaster Declarations.

DDC 16B – Texas City (Includes: Brazoria and Galveston Counties)

Brazoria County: Brazoria County and the Cities of Angleton, Brazoria, Clute, [Freeport](#) Jones Creek, Lake Jackson, and [Richwood](#) have submitted Disaster Declarations.

Galveston County: The Cities of Galveston, [Hitchcock](#), [La Marque](#), and Santa Fe submitted Disaster Declarations.

DDC 16C – Conroe (Includes: Liberty, Montgomery, and Walker Counties)

Liberty County: Liberty County and the City of Devers submitted Disaster Declarations.

DDC 16D – Rosenberg (Includes: Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda, and Wharton Counties)

Matagorda County: [Matagorda County is activating Cooling Centers during the day providing Functional Access Needs citizens much needed relief](#)

Wharton County: [City and County of Wharton submitted Disaster Declarations.](#)

Region 3 (Includes DDCs 19, 20, 21, and 24)

DDC 20 – Corpus Christi (Includes: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio Counties)

Aransas County: Aransas County submitted a Disaster Declaration

Nueces County: Nueces County and the City of Port Aransas submitted Disaster Declarations.

Refugio County: Refugio County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

San Patricio County: San Patricio County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 12, 17, 18A, 18B, and 23)

DDC 17 – Victoria (Includes: Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Lavaca, Jackson, and Victoria Counties)

Calhoun County: The cities of Point Comfort, Port Lavaca and Seadrift have submitted Disaster Declarations.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM): [At 7:00 pm on September 15, the Remote State Operations Center \(RSOC\) reduced its response level in response to Hurricane Nicholas, demobilizing a portion of the deployed response resources, and leaving some state resources deployed to assist with recovery efforts.](#) Daily Operations staff continue to monitor and report on the current situation preparing Snapshots and the State SITREPs. The State Management Team (SMT) is refocusing their efforts on the COVID-19 response.

TDEM Communications Coordination Group (CCG): Currently there are no reports of major communications outages. The majority of PSAP / 9-1-1, Cellular and Public Safety networks are reporting minimal to no system degradation. Assets are staged and are prepared to conduct ground assessments once conditions become safe to do so.

CCG has coordinated with FEMA Region 6 and the FCC, for post storm analysis of the broadcast RF spectrum and cellular networks. DHS / CISA has activated a SHARES HF net to support Texas EMCOMM operations.

Amateur Radio operators have been monitoring various nets to include RACES, ARES, the 7290 net, as well as localized networks from the Rio Grande Valley, to throughout the Texas

Texas A&M AgriLife: The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is standing ready with Disaster Assessment and Recovery Agent Strike Teams to support the Texas Division of Emergency Management, TAMU VET, the Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas Department of Agriculture and local jurisdictions in Southeast Texas to provide assistance with animal issues response and with storm damage assessments. There are no known impact to livestock or pets at this time. We have received reports from County Extension Agents of wind damage to rice and cotton crops but have not yet assessed the impact on yields or on the second rice crop.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS): TAMFS has three personnel assigned to the Remote State Operations Center to support ESF 4 Coordination. [IMT Planning Modules in DDEOC 15, 16A, 16B, and 17 have been released.](#) TAMFS Remote SOC personnel are monitoring possible requests of vegetative debris management in the recovery effort.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): TCEQ continues to monitor the situation and have staff on stand-by to respond to any drinking water/ wastewater and emergency response issues.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1): TX-TF1 deployed personnel on September 13, 2021, at the request of TDEM for coastal flooding secondary to TS Nicholas.

[On 15 September, 50% of the Search and Rescue resources were authorized to demobilize leaving 1 Water Group Supervisor and 4 Swiftwater Boat Squads. The total TX-TF1 deployed is now 27 personnel. The 4 Swiftwater Boat Squads are located in Orange, Winnie and Beaumont. There have been no requests for service for 24 hours.](#)

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): [All DPS assets were released and returned to normal duty operations Wednesday afternoon.](#)

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): [DSHS has taken off the Emergency Medical Task Force \(EMTF\) Severe Weather Packages from Standby. All DSHS resources in response to Tropical Storm Nicholas have demobilized.](#)

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): Provide safe roadways for the traveling public. Provide up to date travel information to the public. All TxDOT EOC'S have stood down 24-hour operations and have returned to normal operations.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HSSC): HHSC continues to monitor situation for state-owned hospitals and state supported living centers and regulated health care facilities. TDEM has requested that HHSC activate its water and ice contracts.

Texas Military Department (TMD): TMD has activated 255 personnel in support of 21-0018 Tropical Weather Response. TMD has 9 ground transportation platoons (high profile vehicles) with three ground transportation Company HQ's. TMD has an Air Operations Center with 5 Rotary Wing MRP. TMD has 3 Military District Coordinators.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): Texas Game Wardens and State Park Police Officers have returned to normal operations in areas affected by Tropical Storm Nicholas.

Public Utility Commission of Texas: As of 13:30 Wednesday, 15 September there were approximately 100,000 storm-related outages. The greatest affected counties remain Brazoria (27,000), Harris (24,000), Galveston (17,000), Fort Bend (11,000) and Matagorda. CenterPoint is reporting about 67,000 outages with the bulk of restoration expected today/tonight. TNMP is reporting about 20,000 outages with restoration expected by the end of the week. AEP is reporting about 6,000 outages with restoration expected this evening. Restorations should increase in pace through the early morning hours as crews continue to assess damage and commit repairs.

United States Coast Guard (USCG) The Coast Guard Captain of the Port in Corpus Christi rescinded modified Port Condition Yankee on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 6:00 AM, for the ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City and the portion of the GIWW from MM-319.5 to MM-442.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TAMFS	ESF 4 Coordinators	3		Assigned	Virtual
TMD	Air Operations Center	5		Assigned	Austin
TMD	AOC Command Trailer	7		Assigned	Austin
TMD	Rotary Wing MRP – Heavy	14	2	Assigned	Dallas
TMD	Rotary Wing MRP - Medium	28	4	Assigned	San Antonio

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TMD	Rotary Wing MRP – Medium	14	2	Assigned	Austin
TMD	Rotary Wing MRP - Mix	14	2	Assigned	Austin
TMD	Task Force Storm HQ	10		Assigned	Austin
TMD	Battalion Mission Command	36	15	Assigned	Westminster
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon Headquarters	9	4	Assigned	Beaumont
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon Headquarters	6	3	Assigned	Galveston
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon Headquarters	8	3	Assigned	Victoria
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	10	5	Assigned	Beaumont
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	10	4	Assigned	Beaumont
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	10	4	Enroute	San Antonio To Beaumont
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	10	5	Enroute	San Antonio To Beaumont
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	11	5	Assigned	Galveston
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	11	3	Activated	Fort Worth to Galveston
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	11	3	Activated	Gatesville to Galveston

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	14	4	Assigned	Beaumont
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	11	5	Assigned	Victoria
TMD	Ground Transportation Platoon	11	5	Assigned	Victoria
TMD	Military District Coordinators	3		Assigned	Beaumont, Rosenberg, Weslaco
TX-TF1	ESF 9 SOC LO	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TX-TF1	Water Group Supervisor	2	0	Assigned	Beaumont
TX-TF1	Water Squads	24	8	Assigned	Orange, Winnie, Beaumont

Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

American Red Cross (ARC) Two congregate shelters remain open with no occupants; one shelter remains on standby.

AMERICAN RED CROSS CONGREGATE SHELTERS CLOSED SINCE LAST REPORT							
Shelter	Agency	City	County	State	Pop	Change	Consecutive Nights Open
First Baptist Church of Nederland	ARC Managed	Nederland	Jefferson	TX	0	No Change	3
Orange Church of God, Embassy of Grace	ARC Managed	Orange	Orange	TX	0	No Change	3
2					0	0	

FINAL COMMENTS The State of Texas State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) in response to COVID-19. TDEM continues to monitor the situation and will continue to provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

Level I	(Emergency Conditions)
Level II	(Escalated Response Conditions)
Level III	(Increased Readiness Conditions)
Level IV	(Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:
<https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

W. Nim Kidd, MPA, CEM

Chief – Texas Division of Emergency Management
Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services
Texas A&M University System

<https://tdem.texas.gov/>

Twitter: @TDEM

(512) 424-2208 (24/7)